



John Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

STEPHEN WOODS, MAYOR

**NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
Conference Room L-101 – Town Hall
131 Cedar Street**

**Tuesday, March 5, 2013
7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Mayor Woods called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in conference room L-101.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilor Borjeson
Councilor Bottalico (arrived at 7:40 p.m.)
Councilor Castelle
Councilor Cohen
Councilor DelBuono
Councilor Klett
Councilor McBride
Councilor Nagel
Mayor Woods

Staff Attendees:

John Salomone, Town Manager
Ann Harter, Finance Director
Lisa Rydecki, Deputy Finance Director
Tom Molloy, Highway Superintendent
Rob Hillman, Assistant Highway Superintendent
Jaime Trevethan, Executive Assistant

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Ms. Lyons urged interested residents to review the budget, attend meetings and participate prior to the public hearings.

IV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Borjeson clarified his comments in a recent newspaper article. He stated that his comments about no tax increase last year were not reported correctly and he reiterated that there was an increase of about two mills in the 2012-13 budget but due to revaluation about 80% of residents did not experience a tax increase last year.

V. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Review: Public Works (Engineering, Highway, Sanitation)

310 – Engineering

- Salary increase due to contractual step increase.

Highway Superintendent Tom Molloy and Assistant Superintendent Rob Hillman discussed the Highway and Sanitation departments' budget with the Town Council.

321 – Highway Administration

- No major changes from FY 2012-13 budget

322 – Highway Operations

- Slight increase in salaries to bring in a seasonal employee to be assigned to roadside beautification and cleanup.

324 – Snow and Ice Control

- Some overtime from the recent blizzard will be reimbursed by FEMA.
- Construction/maintenance materials have been increased to replenish stockpile of road salt, which had been carried over from the mild winter of 2012 and used in 2013.

Councilor Borjeson and Mayor Woods complimented the Highway department on its snow removal efforts over the difficult winter. Mayor Woods recommended that the department purchase a very large snow blower for the front of one of the vehicles that could handle a significant storm.

325 – Traffic

- Overtime costs have been reduced by approximately one-third according to trend.

327 – Vehicles and Equipment

- Motor vehicle maintenance, technical supplies and parts increased slightly due to trend
- Motor fuel and lubricants increased due to increased fuel costs. This account covers motor fuel for all town vehicles excluding school busses. The Town is locked into gasoline prices through August, but an increase in diesel fuel costs is expected.

328 – Leaf Collection

- No major changes from FY 2012-13 budget

Councilor DelBuono asked, on behalf of Councilor Bottalico, the cost of removing collected leaves from the Town and where that is accounted for in the budget. Mr. Molloy replied that the cost of about \$54,000 is included in the recycling budget.

351 – Refuse Collection

- Contractual services reduced due to implantation of the new refuse collection contract in 2012.

352 – Refuse Disposal

- Contractual services reduced due to implantation of the new refuse disposal contract in 2012.

353 – Recycling

- Contractual services reduced due to implantation of the new recycling collection contract in 2012. The Town also receives \$22.50 per ton of recycling collected. This is a revenue item and has increased from the past contract's revenue of approximately \$10.00 per ton. This translates into revenue of about \$70,000 per year.

B. Budget Review: Community Development and Improvements (Town Planner, TPZ, ZBA, Building Department, Conservation Commission, Economic Development Commission)

420 – Planning and Development

- Decrease in consultants due to decreased need upon completion of the TPZ's 2010-2020 long-term plan.

430 – Town Plan and Zoning Commission

- No major changes from FY 2012-13 budget

Mayor Woods inquired whether the TPZ minutes are taken verbatim. Town Manager Salomone replied in the affirmative. Councilors Castelle and Cohen indicated that verbatim minutes for the TPZ and sometimes the Conservation Commission are very important.

440 – Zoning Board of Appeals

- No changes from FY 2012-13 budget

450 – Building Department

- No major changes in budget, slight increase in salaries due to longevity.

460 – Conservation Commission

- No major changes in budget, however, the recording secretary salary item for the current budget will need to be increased to reflect additional meetings and verbatim minutes needed due to the Toll Brothers application meetings.

471 – Development Director

- Other contractual service is increased to reflect a full year of the contracted Economic Development Director as well as for an increase over the estimated fee due to a heavier than anticipated workload. This contract is renewed on an annual basis.

Town Manager Salomone and Mayor Woods expressed appreciation for Economic Development Director Andy Brecher's efforts during his first several months on the job. Town Manager Salomone stated that he will schedule quarterly updates with Mr. Brecher for the Council.

Councilor Klett requested to also bring in the Town Attorney for updates on various legal issues. Town Manager Salomone replied that an Executive Session can be placed on an upcoming agenda for this discussion.

Mayor Woods noted that when it came time to negotiate the contract there was more work to be done than originally anticipated.

472 – Development Commission

- No changes from FY 2012-13 budget

C. Budget Review: Health

511 – Health Services

- Increase due to a fee increase to the Town, based upon the population of the four member towns: Newington, Wethersfield, Berlin and Rocky Hill. This is the first per-capita increase in several years.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA (none)

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Ms. Lyons inquired whether the CCHD's budget is an estimate that may change once the CCHD finalizes its budget. She also noted the Conservation Commission's \$200 budget for conferences and training and inquired whether Chris Greenlaw or the Commission itself had requested the training.

VII. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS (none)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Nagel moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Castelle. Motion passed 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jaime Trevethan
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager
Town of Newington